

CALC GED Ready Test Statistics for 2015

Number of official GED practice tests taken/purchased, by subject:

- RLA: 41
- SS: 6
- Science: 5
- Math: 4

Number of tests passed by subject:

- RLA: 4
- SS: 2
- Science: 1
- Math: 0

My students have to take the GED Ready RLA on average of four times before passing and scheduling their official GED RLA test. I currently have only one student that has passed through the first 3 and is currently working on their math, as evidenced by the single Science Ready passing and lack of one for math. He is responsible for all 4 of our Math GED Ready test purchases and has yet to pass.

Attrition Rates for CALC GED screening and pretesting process

- Screening Day: ~90% pass initial screening
- CASAS: ~70% of students pass this level
- Old GED Reading Pretest: ~80%
- Old GED Writing Pretest: ~50%

Attrition Rate on average by failed test: ~75% return after the first fail, ~33% after the second, <10% after the third and so on.

It is extremely disheartening to work with such wonderful, compassionate people for students and witness them struggle to pass unfairly difficult standardized tests to support their loved ones.

I have assisted with 15 GED students and only 4 of them have passed a GED Ready RLA exam to date. Out of those 4 deemed "ready" for the official test, only 3 of them have gone on to pass the GED Official RLA exam.

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I take my job extremely seriously and with an enormous amount of pride. I have a special opportunity here at CALC to work with and help some of the most disadvantaged members of the Lansing community. I take a moment to cherish this chance every morning before I go to my job. So it hurts me, on a deep and profoundly spiritual level, to then witness my perfectly qualified clients taking unfairly difficult exams and being wrongly denied credentials for middle-wage paying jobs so that they can finally support their families. This has to stop and my students need alternatives to this GED test for the sake of their own livelihoods. We're talking about families in your own neighborhoods in dire need of assistance.

The new 2014 versions of the GED Ready and Official tests have resulted in a massive drop in the graduation rate nationally. I unfortunately witness this transpire every day on a local level. My students struggle to find transportation at times to even reach our testing centers, stressed out by the day-to-day grind of life. They have children to set up babysitters for, children to drop off to and pick up from school. I have had students reaching the point of tears in their frustration to even pass the initial GED Ready RLA.

There are moments where I have been overcome with emotion here at CALC, frustrated with these tests and my students' seemingly universal struggle to ever advance in it. These are perfectly intelligent adults that mostly would be passing the old GED tests according to the statistics. I have trouble convincing some to believe in this system because Pearson's system is *corrupt and broken* and the system as a whole disgusts me as someone who works in adult education.

So I write to you as not only a concerned educator, but as a person of values, to implore that my students can take other forms of standardized tests in Michigan.

Thank you.